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Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 04737 011436Z

44
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-10 /101 W
---------- 069206
R 011341Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8865
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 4737

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, US
SUBJ: REACTIONS TO PANMUNJOM INCIDENT

REF: STATE 211862

1. EXCEPT FOR MEDIA REACTIONS, WE RECEIVED NO OTHER INDICATION OF DUCTH INTEREST IN THE NORTH KOREAN ATTACK AT PANMUNJON. DUTCH PUBLICATIONS GENERALLY VIEWED THE ATTACK AS AN ATTEMPT BY KIM II SUNG TO FOCUS THE ATTENTION OF THE NON-ALIGNED NATIONS UPON THE US PRESENCE IN KOREA. AT THE TIME IT WAS FELT THAT, IF THE NORTH KOREAN TACTIC FAILED, IT WOULD BE DUE AS MUCH TO LACK OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNIST POWERS AS TO US MUSCLE FLEXING. PRESIDENT FORD WAS MILDLY CRITICIZED FOR OVERRACTING, AND POLITICAL MOTIVES WERE SUGGESTED, BUT THERE WAS GENERAL CONSENSUS ON THE NEED FOR CONTINUED US PRESENCE IN SOUTH KOREA.

2. "ELSEVIERS" MAGAZINE (MASS CIRCULATION "TIME" STYLE WEEKLY) CALLED KIM A "MEGALOMANIAC" WHO ORDERED THE ATTACK TO MAKE KOREA AN ISSUE IN THE US ELECTION AND IN THE COLUMBO CONFERENCE AS WELL AS TO CREATE A SCAPEGOAT FOR NORTH KOREA'S IOR ECONOMIC SITUATION. HIS SUCCESS WILL BE MEASURED BY THE NUMBER OF COMMUNIST AND NON ALIGNED COUNTRIES WHO CALL FOR US WITHDRAWAL "IN THE NAME OF DETENTE" AT THE UNGA.
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THE MAGAZINE PREDICTS THAT CHINA WILL NOT SUPPORT THIS EFFORT.

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3. "NRC HANDELSBLAD" CATALOGURED THE HARDWARE USED IN THE US SHOW OF FORCE AND COMMENTED: "ONE CAN SPEAK OF AN AMERICAN OVERREACTION." THIS DISPLAY SHOWED THE AMERICAN DETERMINATION TO LEAVE NO POWER VACUUM ON THE BORDERS OF THREE GREAT IDEOLOGICAL POWERS, THE EDITORIA CONTINUED. THE SAME PAPER LAMENTED THE PROBABILITY THAT THE INCIDENT WILL LEAD TO MORE SUPPRESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH KOREA. THE LIBERAL "DE BOLKSKRANT" COMMENTED THAT A US WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE A MISTAKE, SINCE IT WOULD REMOVE THE LAST BARRIER TO A FULL SCALE CONFLICT ON THE PENINSULA. THE "HAAGSCHE COURANT" EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT A KOREAN SOLUTION IS NOW MORE REMOTE THAN EVER AND THAT ONLY THE BIG POWERS RELUCTANCE TO ESCALATE WILL QUIET THE CURRENT CRISIS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, BORDER INCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976THEHA04737
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760332-0330
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197609100/aaaadhrm.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 211862
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cahillha
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 FEB 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <18 JAN 2005 by cahillha>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
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04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTIONS TO PANMUNJOM INCIDENT
TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006